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SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

FOR THE COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

CIRO UMERES, an individual, on behalf of
himself and all others similarly situated,

Plaintiff,

v.

NEXA MORTGAGE, LLC, an Arizona limited
liability company; and DOES 1 TO 50,

Defendants.

Case Number: **22STCV14981**

CLASS ACTION COMPLAINT FOR:

1. Failure to Pay All Minimum Wages,
2. Failure to Pay All Overtime Wages,
3. Failure to Provide Rest Periods and Pay Missed Rest Period Premiums,
4. Failure to Provide Meal Periods and Pay Missed Meal Period Premiums,
5. Failure to Maintain Accurate Employment Records,
6. Failure to Pay Wages Timely during Employment,
7. Failure to Pay All Wages Earned and Unpaid at Separation,
8. Failure to Indemnify All Necessary Business Expenditures,
9. Failure to Furnish Accurate Itemized Wage Statements, and
10. Violations of California's Unfair Competition Law (Bus. & Prof. Code, §§ 17200–17210).

Demand for Jury Trial

Plaintiff Ciro Umeres (“Plaintiff”), on behalf of himself and all other similarly situated employees within the State of California, complains and alleges of defendants NEXA Mortgage, LLC and Does 1 to 50 (collectively, “Defendants”), and each of them, as follows:

I. INTRODUCTION

1. This is a class action complaint brought pursuant to California Code of Civil Procedure section 382.

2. The “Class Period” as used herein, is defined as the period from four years prior to the filing of this action and continuing into the present and ongoing. Defendants’ violations of California’s laws as described more fully below have been ongoing throughout the Class Period and are still ongoing.

3. Plaintiff brings this class action on behalf of himself and the following class: *All individuals who are or were employed by Defendants as non-exempt employees in California during the Class Period* (the “Class Members”). (Code Civ. Proc., § 382.)

4. Plaintiff brings this action on behalf of himself and the Class Members, as a class action, against Defendants for:

- A. Failure to pay all minimum wages,
- B. Failure to pay all overtime wages,
- C. Failure to provide rest periods and pay missed rest period premiums,
- D. Failure to provide meal periods and pay missed meal period premiums,
- E. Failure to maintain accurate employment records,
- F. Failure to pay wages timely during employment,
- G. Failure to pay all wages earned and unpaid at separation,
- H. Failure to indemnify all necessary business expenditures,
- I. Failure to furnish accurate itemized wage statements, and
- J. Violations of California’s Unfair Competition Law (“UCL”) (Bus. & Prof. Code, §§ 17200–17210).

5. Plaintiff is informed and believes and thereon alleges that the California Industrial Welfare Commission (“IWC”) Wage Order applicable to the facts of this case is IWC Wage Order 4-

2001 (the “Applicable Wage Order”) and possibly others that may be applicable. (Cal. Code of Regs., tit. 8, § 11040.) Plaintiff reserves the right to amend or modify the definition of “Applicable Wage Order” with greater specificity or add additional IWC Wage Orders if additional applicable wage orders are discovered in litigation.

II. JURISDICTION & VENUE

6. This Court has subject matter jurisdiction over all causes of action asserted herein pursuant to Article VI, section 10, of the California Constitution and Code of Civil Procedure section 410.10 because this is a civil action in which the matter in controversy, exclusive of interest, exceeds \$25,000, and because each cause of action asserted arises under the laws of the State of California or is subject to adjudication in the courts of the State of California.

7. This Court has personal jurisdiction over Defendants because Defendants have caused injuries in the County of Los Angeles and the State of California through their acts, and by their violation of the California Labor Code and California state common law. Defendants transact millions of dollars of business within the State of California. Defendants own, maintain offices, transact business, have an agent or agents within the County of Los Angeles, and/or otherwise are found within the County of Los Angeles, and Defendants are within the jurisdiction of this Court for purposes of service of process.

8. Venue as to Defendants is proper in this judicial district, pursuant to section 395 of the Code of Civil Procedure. Defendants operate within California and do business within Los Angeles County, California. The unlawful acts alleged herein have a direct effect on Plaintiff and all of Defendants’ employees identified above within Los Angeles County and surrounding counties where Defendants may remotely operate.

9. This matter is not appropriate for removal under the Class Action Fairness Act (28 U.S.C. § 1332) as the amount in controversy for Plaintiff’s and the Class Members’ claims, in aggregate, is less than \$5 million. Additionally, all the allegations herein occurred in the State of California. As such, even if the amount in controversy did exceed \$5 million this matter would still not be appropriate for removal under the “local controversy” exception to the Class Action Fairness Act. (28 U.S.C. § 1332, subd. (d)(4)(A).)

1 **III. THE PARTIES**

2 **A. PLAINTIFF**

3 10. At all relevant times, Plaintiff, who is over the age of 18, was and currently is a citizen
4 of California residing in the State of California. Defendants employed Plaintiff as a non-exempt hourly
5 employee in the County of Los Angeles.

6 11. Plaintiff brings this action on behalf of himself and the following class pursuant to
7 section 382 of the Code of Civil Procedure as follows: *All individuals who are or were employed by*
8 *Defendants as non-exempt employees in California during the Class Period* (the “Class Members”).

9 12. The Class Members, at all times pertinent hereto, are or were employees of Defendants
10 during the relevant statutory period.

11 **B. DEFENDANTS**

12 13. Plaintiff is informed and believes and thereon alleges that Defendants were authorized
13 to and doing business in Los Angeles County and is and/or was the legal employer of Plaintiff and the
14 other Class Members during the applicable statutory periods. Plaintiff and the other Class Members
15 were, and are, subject to Defendants’ policies and/or practices complained of herein and have been
16 deprived of the rights guaranteed to them by: California Labor Code sections 201, 202, 203, 204, 210,
17 226, 226.3, 226.7, 256, 510, 512, 1174, 1185, 1194, 1194.2, 1197, 1197.1, 1198, 1198.5, 1199, 2802,
18 2804, and others that may be applicable; California Business and Professions Code sections 17200
19 through 17210 (“UCL”); and the Applicable Wage Order (Cal. Code of Regs., tit. 8, § 11040).

20 14. Plaintiff is informed and believes, and based thereon alleges, that during the Class
21 Period, Defendants did (and continue to do) business in the State of California, County of Los Angeles.

22 15. Plaintiff does not know the true names or capacities, whether individual, partner, or
23 corporate, of the defendants sued herein as Does 1 to 50, inclusive, and for that reason, said defendants
24 are sued under such fictitious names, and Plaintiff will seek leave from this Court to amend this
25 complaint when such true names and capacities are discovered. Plaintiff is informed, and believes, and
26 thereon alleges, that each of said fictitious defendants, whether individual, partners, or corporate, were
27 responsible in some manner for the acts and omissions alleged herein, and proximately caused Plaintiff
28 and the other Class Members to be subject to the unlawful employment practices, wrongs, injuries, and

1 damages complained of herein.

2 16. Plaintiff is informed, and believes, and thereon alleges, that at all times mentioned
3 herein, Defendants were and/or are the employers of Plaintiff and the other Class Members. At all
4 times herein mentioned, each of said Defendants participated in the doing of the acts hereinafter alleged
5 to have been done by the named Defendants. Furthermore, the Defendants, and each of them, were the
6 agents, servants, and employees of each and every one of the other Defendants, as well as the agents
7 of all Defendants, and at all times herein mentioned were acting within the course and scope of said
8 agency and employment. Defendants, and each of them, approved of, condoned, or otherwise ratified
9 every one of the acts or omissions complained of herein.

10 17. At all relevant times, Defendants, and each of them, were members of and engaged in a
11 joint venture, partnership, and common enterprise, and acting within the course and scope of and in
12 pursuance of said joint venture, partnership, and common enterprise. Further, Plaintiff is informed,
13 and believes, and thereon alleges, that all Defendants were joint employers for all purposes of Plaintiff
14 and the other Class Members.

15 **IV. COMMON FACTS & ALLEGATIONS**

16 18. Plaintiff and the other Class Members (collectively, the “Class Members”) are, and were
17 at all relevant times, employed by the Defendants within the State of California.

18 19. The Class Members are, and were, at all relevant times, non-exempt employees for the
19 purposes of minimum wages, overtime, rest breaks, meal periods, and the other claims alleged in this
20 complaint.

21 20. Specifically, Plaintiff was employed by Defendants within the statutory Class Period,
22 working as an hourly, non-exempt loan officer for Defendants.

23 **A. MINIMUM WAGE VIOLATIONS**

24 21. Labor Code section 1197 requires employees to be paid at least the minimum wage fixed
25 by the IWC, and any payment of less than the minimum wage is unlawful. Similarly, Labor Code
26 section 1194 entitles “any employee receiving less than the legal minimum wage . . . to recover in a
27 civil action the unpaid balance of the full amount of this minimum wage.” Likewise, the Applicable
28 Wage Order also obligates employers to pay each employee minimum wages for all hours worked.

(Cal. Code of Regs., tit. 8, § 11040.) Labor Code section 1198 makes unlawful the employment of an employee under conditions that the IWC Wage Orders prohibit.

22. These minimum wage standards apply to each hour that employees work. Therefore, an employer's failure to pay for any particular time worked by an employee is unlawful, even if averaging an employee's total pay over all hours worked, paid or not, results in an average hourly wage above minimum wage. (*Armenta v. Osmose, Inc.* (2005) 135 Cal.App.4th 314, 324.)

23. Here, Defendants failed to fully conform their pay practices to the requirements of the law during the relevant statutory periods. The Class Members were not compensated for all hours worked including, but not limited to, all hours they were subject to the control of Defendants and/or suffered or permitted to work under the California Labor Code and the Applicable Wage Order.

24. Labor Code sections 1194, subdivision (a), and 1194.2, subdivision (a), provide that an employer who has failed to pay its employees the legal minimum wage is liable to pay those employees the unpaid balance of the unpaid wages as well as liquidated damages in an amount equal to the wages due and interest thereon.

25. When employees, such as the Class Members, are not paid for all hours worked under Labor Code section 1194, they are entitled to recover minimum wages for the time which they received no compensation. (See *Sillah v. Command International Security Services* (N.D. Cal. 2015) 154 F.Supp.3d 891 [employees suing for failure to pay overtime could recover liquidated damages under Labor Code section 1194.2 if they also showed they were paid less than minimum wage].)

26. Labor Code section 1197.1 authorizes employees who are paid less than the minimum wage fixed by an applicable state or local law, or by an order of the IWC, a civil penalty, among other damages, as follows:

- (1) "For any initial violation that is intentionally committed, one hundred dollars (\$100) for each underpaid employee for each pay period for which the employee is underpaid."
- (2) "For each subsequent violation for the same specific offense, two hundred fifty dollars (\$250) for each underpaid employee for each pay period for which the employee is underpaid regardless of whether the

1 initial violation is intentionally committed.” (Lab. Code, § 1197.1, subd.

2 (a).)

3 27. As set forth above, Defendants failed to fully compensate the Class Members for all
4 minimum wages. Accordingly, the Class Members are entitled to recover liquidated damages for
5 violations of Labor Code section 1197.1.

6 28. Based upon these same factual allegations, the Class Members are likewise entitled to
7 penalties under Labor Code sections 1199.

8 **B. OVERTIME VIOLATIONS**

9 29. Labor Code section 510 requires employers to compensate employees who work more
10 than eight hours in one workday, forty hours in a workweek, and for the first eight hours worked on
11 the seventh consecutive day no less than one and one-half times the regular rate of pay for an employee.
12 (Lab. Code, § 510, subd. (a).) Further, Labor Code section 510 obligates employers to compensate
13 employees at no less than twice the regular rate of pay when an employee works more than twelve
14 hours in a day or more than eight hours on the seventh consecutive day of work. (Lab. Code, § 510,
15 subd. (a).) These rules are also reflected in the Applicable Wage Order.

16 30. In accordance with Labor Code section 1194 and the Applicable Wage Order, the Class
17 Members could not then agree and cannot now agree to work for a lesser wage than the amount
18 provided by Labor Code sections 510 or the Applicable Wage Order.

19 31. Here, Defendants violated their duty to accurately and completely compensate the Class
20 Members for all overtime worked. The Class Members periodically worked hours that entitled them
21 to overtime compensation under the law but were not fully compensated for those hours.

22 32. These actions were and are in clear violation of California’s overtime laws as set forth
23 in Labor Code sections 510, 1194, 1199, and the Applicable Wage Order. (Cal. Code of Regs., tit. 8,
24 § 11040.) As a result of Defendants’ faulty policies and practices, the Class Members were not
25 compensated for all hours worked or paid accurate overtime compensation.

26 **C. REST BREAK VIOLATIONS**

27 33. Pursuant to Labor Code section 226.7 and the Applicable Wage Order, Defendants were
28 and are required to provide the Class Members with compensated, duty-free rest periods of not less

1 than ten minutes for every major fraction of four hours worked. Under the Applicable Wage Order, an
 2 employer must authorize and permit all employees to take ten-minute duty-free rest periods for every
 3 major fraction of four hours worked. (Cal. Code of Regs., tit. 8, § 11040.)

4 34. Likewise, Labor Code section 226.7 provides that “[a]n employer shall not require an
 5 employee to work during a meal or rest or recovery period mandated pursuant to an applicable statute,
 6 or applicable regulation, standard, or order of the Industrial Welfare Commission” (Lab. Code, §
 7 226.7, subd. (b).) Labor Code section 226.7 also provides that employers must pay their employees
 8 one additional hour of pay at the employee’s regular rate for each workday that a “meal or rest or
 9 recovery period is not provided.” (Lab. Code, § 226.7, subd. (c).) The “regular rate” for these purposes
 10 must factor in all nondiscretionary payments for work performed by the employee, including non-
 11 discretionary bonuses, commissions, and other forms of wage payments exceeding the employees’ base
 12 hourly rate. (*Ferra v. Loews Hollywood Hotel, LLC* (2021) 11 Cal.5th 858, 878.) Thus, the Wage
 13 Orders set when and for how long the rest period must take place and the Labor Code establishes that
 14 violations of the IWC Wage Orders are unlawful and sets forth the premium pay employer must pay
 15 their employees when employers fail to provide rest periods.

16 35. The California Supreme Court has held that, during required rest periods, “employers
 17 must relieve their employees of all duties and relinquish any control over how employees spend their
 18 break time.” (*Augustus v. ABM Security Services, Inc.* (2016) 2 Cal.5th 257, 260.) Relinquishing
 19 control over employees during rest periods requires that employees be “free to leave the employer’s
 20 premises” and be “permitted to attend to personal business.” (*Id.* at p. 275.) The *Brinker* Court
 21 explained in the context of rest breaks that employer liability attaches from adopting an unlawful
 22 policy:

23 “An employer is required to authorize and permit the amount of rest break time
 24 called for under the wage order for its industry. If it does not—if, for example,
 25 it adopts a uniform policy authorizing and permitting only one rest break for
 26 employees working a seven-hour shift when two are required—it has violated
 27 the wage order and is liable.” (*Brinker Rest. Corp. v. Superior Court* (2012) 53
 28 Cal.4th 1004, 1033.)

1 36. Here, Defendants periodically did not permit the Class Members to take compliant duty-
2 free rest breaks, free from Defendants' control as required by Labor Code section 226.7, the Applicable
3 Wage Order, and applicable precedent. (See *Augustus v. ABM Security Services, Inc.* (2016) 2 Cal.5th
4 257, 269 [concluding that "during rest periods employers must relieve employees of all duties and
5 relinquish control over how employees spend their time."].) At all relevant times, the Class Members
6 were periodically not provided with legally-compliant and timely rest periods of at least ten minutes
7 for each four hour work period, or major fraction thereof due to Defendants' unlawful rest period
8 policies/practices. The Class Members were often expected and required to continue working through
9 rest periods to meet the expectations Defendants and finish the workday. In some cases when the Class
10 Members worked more than ten hours in a shift, Defendants failed to authorize and/or permit a third
11 mandated rest period. As a result, the Class Members were periodically unable to take compliant rest
12 periods.

13 37. In such cases where Defendants did not offer the Class Members the opportunity to
14 receive a compliant off-duty rest period, "the court may not conclude employees voluntarily chose to
15 skip those breaks." (*Alberts v. Aurora Behavioral Health Care* (2015) 241 Cal.App.4th 388, 410
16 (2015) ["If an employer fails to provide legally compliant meal or rest breaks, the court may not
17 conclude employees voluntarily chose to skip those breaks."]; *Brinker Rest. Corp. v. Superior Court*,
18 *supra*, 53 Cal.4th at p. 1033 ["No issue of waiver ever arises for a rest break that was required by law
19 but never authorized; if a break is not authorized, an employee has no opportunity to decline to take
20 it."].)

21 38. In addition to failing to authorize and permit compliant rest periods, the Class Members
22 were not compensated with one hour's worth of pay at their regular rate of compensation when they
23 were not provided with a compliant rest period in accordance with Labor Code section 226.7,
24 subdivision (c). Thus, Defendants have violated Labor Code section 226.7 and the Applicable Wage
25 Order.

26 39. Based on the foregoing, Plaintiff seeks to recover, on behalf of himself and other non-
27 exempt employees, rest period premiums and penalties.

28 ///

D. MEAL BREAK VIOLATIONS

40. Labor Code section 512 and the Applicable Wage Order require employers to provide employees with a thirty-minute uninterrupted and duty-free meal period within the first five hours of work. (Lab. Code, § 512, subd. (a) [“An employer shall not employ an employee for a work period of more than five hours per day without providing the employee with a meal period of not less than 30 minutes”]; Cal. Code of Regs., tit. 8, § 11040 [“No employer shall employ any person for a work period of more than five (5) hours without a meal period of not less than 30 minutes”].) Additionally, an employee who works more than ten hours per day is entitled to receive a second thirty-minute uninterrupted and duty-free meal period. (Lab. Code, § 512, subd. (a) [“An employer shall not employ an employee for a work period of more than 10 hours per day without providing the employee with a second meal period of not less than 30 minutes”].)

41. “An on-duty meal period is permitted only when the nature of the work prevents an employee from being relieved of all duty and the parties agree in writing to an on-duty paid meal break.” (*Lubin v. The Wackenhut Corp.* (2016) 5 Cal.App.5th 926, 932.) The written agreement must include a provision allowing the employee to revoke it at any time. (*Ibid.*) Generally, the California Department of Industrial Relations, Division of Labor Standards Enforcement (“DLSE”) and courts have “found that the nature of the work exception applies: (1) where the work has some particular external force that requires the employee to be on duty at all times, and (2) where the employee is the sole employee of a particular employer.” (*Id.* at p. 945, internal quotation marks omitted; *Abdullah v. U.S. Security Associates, Inc.* (9th Cir. 2013) 731 F.3d 952, 958–959.) “[I]t is the employer’s obligation to determine whether the nature of the work prevents an employee from being relieved before requiring an employee to take an on-duty meal period.” (*Lubin v. The Wackenhut Corp.*, *supra*, 5 Cal.App.5th at p. 946.)

42. Here, the Class Members were never asked to sign any enforceable document agreeing to an on-duty meal period. Moreover, nothing in the nature of their work involved the kind of “external force” that might justify on-duty meal breaks. (*Lubin v. The Wackenhut Corp.*, *supra*, 5 Cal.App.5th at p. 945.) Nevertheless, Defendants periodically did not provide compliant off-duty meal periods within the first five hours of work for the Class Members.

43. As with rest breaks, meal breaks must be duty-free. (*Brinker Restaurant Corp. v. Superior Court* (2012) 53 Cal.4th 1004, 1035 [“The IWC’s wage orders have long made a meal period’s duty-free nature its defining characteristic.”].) Relinquishing control over employees during meal periods requires that employees be “free to leave the employer’s premises” and be “permitted to attend to personal business.” (*Augustus v. ABM Security Services, Inc.*, *supra*, 2 Cal.5th at p. 275.) Under Labor Code section 512, if an employer maintains a uniform policy that does not authorize and permit the amount of mealtime called for under the law (as specified in the Labor Code and/or applicable IWC Wage Order), “it has violated the wage order and is liable.” (*Brinker Restaurant Corp. v. Superior Court*, *supra*, 53 Cal.4th at p. 1033.)

44. During the applicable statutory periods here, the Class Members were periodically denied legally-compliant and timely off-duty meal periods of at least thirty minutes due to Defendants’ unlawful meal period policy and practices. As a result of Defendants’ uniform meal period policies and practices, the Class Members were often not permitted to take compliant first meal periods before the end of the fifth hour of work. The Class Members were also periodically not permitted to take second meal periods for shifts in excess of ten hours. Defendants thus violated Labor Code section 512 and the Applicable Wage Order by failing to advise, authorize, or permit the Class Members to receive thirty-minute, off-duty meal periods within the first five hours of their shifts.

45. Labor Code section 226.7 provides that “[a]n employer shall not require an employee to work during a meal or rest or recovery period mandated pursuant to an applicable statute, or applicable regulation, standard, or order of the Industrial Welfare Commission.” (Lab. Code, § 226.7, subd. (b).) Labor Code section 226.7, subdivision (c), and the Applicable Wage Order further obligate employers to pay employees one additional hour of pay at the employee’s regular rate of compensation for each workday that the meal period is not provided. (Lab. Code, § 226.7, subd. (c); Cal. Code of Regs., tit. 8, § 11040 [“If an employer fails to provide an employee a meal period in accordance with the applicable provisions of this order, the employer shall pay the employee one (1) hour of pay at the employee’s regular rate of compensation for each workday that the meal period is not provided.”].) The “regular rate” for these purposes must factor in all nondiscretionary payments for work performed by the employee, including non-discretionary bonuses, commissions, and other forms of wage

1 payments exceeding the employees' base hourly rate. (*Ferra v. Loews Hollywood Hotel, LLC* (2021)
2 11 Cal.5th 858, 878.)

3 46. Accordingly, for each day that the Class Members did not receive compliant meal
4 periods, they were and are entitled to receive meal period premiums pursuant to Labor Code section
5 226.7 and the Applicable Wage Order. Defendants, however, failed to pay the Class Members
6 applicable meal period premiums for many workdays that the employees did not receive a compliant
7 meal period. Thus, Defendants have violated Labor Code section 226.7 and the Applicable Wage
8 Order.

9 47. Based on the foregoing, Plaintiff seeks to recover, on behalf of himself and other non-
10 exempt employees, meal period premiums and penalties.

11 **E. UNTIMELY WAGES DURING EMPLOYMENT**

12 48. Labor Code section 204 expressly requires employers who pay employees on a weekly,
13 biweekly, or semimonthly basis to pay all wages "not more than seven calendar days following the
14 close of the payroll period." Labor Code section 210, subdivision (a), makes employers who violate
15 Labor Code section 204 subject to a penalty of:

16 "(1) For any initial violation, one hundred dollars (\$100) for each failure to
17 pay each employee.

18 "(2) For each subsequent violation, or any willful or intentional violation, two
19 hundred dollars (\$200) for each failure to pay each employee, plus 25
20 percent of the amount unlawfully withheld." (Lab. Code, § 210, subd.
21 (a).)

22 49. Notably, the penalty provided by Labor Code section 210 is "[i]n addition to, and
23 entirely independent and apart from, any other penalty provided in this article" (Lab. Code, § 210,
24 subd. (a).)

25 50. Due to Defendants' failure to pay the Class Members the wages described above, along
26 with rest and meal break premiums, Defendants failed to timely pay the Class Members within seven
27 calendar days following the close of payroll in accordance with Labor Code section 204 on a regular
28 and consistent basis. (See *Parson v. Golden State FC, LLC* (N.D. Cal., May 2, 2016, No. 16-CV-

1 00405-JST) 2016 WL 1734010, at p. *3–5, 2016 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 58299 [finding that a failure to pay
2 rest period premiums can support claims under Labor Code sections 203 and 204].)

3 **F. UNTIMELY WAGES AT SEPARATION**

4 51. Labor Code section 203 provides “if an employer willfully fails to pay . . . any wages
5 of an employee who is discharged or who quits, the wages of the employee shall continue as a penalty”
6 for up to thirty days. (Lab. Code § 203; *Mamika v. Barca* (1998) 68 Cal.App.4th 487, 492.) As a result
7 of Defendants’ failure to pay the Class Members for the wages described above, along with rest and
8 meal break premiums, Defendants violated and continue to violate Labor Code section 203.

9 52. Due to Defendants’ faulty pay policies, those Class Members whose employment with
10 Defendants concluded were not compensated for each and every hour worked at the appropriate rate.
11 Defendants have failed to pay formerly-employed Class Members whose sums were certain at the time
12 of termination within at least seventy-two hours of their resignation and have failed to pay those sums
13 for thirty days thereafter.

14 **G. FAILURE TO REIMBURSE BUSINESS EXPENSES**

15 53. At all relevant times herein, Defendants were subject to Labor Code section 2802, which
16 states that “an employer shall indemnify his or her employees for all necessary expenditures or losses
17 incurred by the employee in direct consequence of the discharge of his or her duties, or of his or her
18 obedience to the directions of the employer.” The purpose of this section is to “prevent employers
19 from passing along their operating expenses onto their employees.” (*Gattuso v. Harte-Hanks Shoppers,*
20 *Inc.* (2007) 42 Cal.4th 554, 562.)

21 54. At all relevant times herein, Defendants were subject to Labor Code section 2804, which
22 states that “any contract or agreement, express or implied, made by any employee to waive the benefits
23 of this article or any part thereof, is null and void, and this article shall not deprive any employee or his
24 personal representative of any right or remedy to which he is entitled under the laws of this State.”

25 55. Thus, the Class Members were and are entitled to reimbursement for the expenses they
26 incurred during the course of their duties. The duty to reimburse even extends to the use of equipment
27 the employee may already own and would be required to pay for anyway. (*Cochran v. Schwan’s Home*
28 *Serv., Inc.* (2014) 228 Cal.App.4th 1137, 1144 [“The threshold question in this case is this: Does an

1 employer always have to reimburse an employee for the reasonable expense of the mandatory use of a
 2 personal cell phone, or is the reimbursement obligation limited to the situation in which the employee
 3 incurred an extra expense that he or she would not have otherwise incurred absent the job? The answer
 4 is that reimbursement is always required. Otherwise, the employer would receive a windfall because it
 5 would be passing its operating expenses on to the employee.”].)

6 56. Here, Defendants failed to fully reimburse the Class Members for necessary
 7 expenditures incurred as a direct consequence and requirement of performing their job duties, including
 8 the costs associated with their personal cell phone and home office expenses they required to perform
 9 their work. Consequently, Defendants failed to comply with Labor Code section 2802.

10 **H. WAGE STATEMENT VIOLATIONS**

11 57. Defendants also failed to provide accurate itemized wage statements in accordance with
 12 Labor Code sections 226, subdivisions (a)(1), (2), (5), and (9). Labor Code section 226, subdivision
 13 (a), obligates employers, semi-monthly or at the time of each payment to furnish an itemized wage
 14 statement in writing showing:

- 15 (1) The gross wages earned;
- 16 (2) The total hours worked by the employee;
- 17 (3) The number of piece-rate units earned and any applicable piece rate if
 18 the employee is paid on a piece rate basis;
- 19 (4) All deductions, provided that all deductions made on written orders of
 20 the employee may be aggregated and shown as one item;
- 21 (5) The net wages earned;
- 22 (6) The inclusive dates of the period for which the employee is paid;
- 23 (7) The name of the employee and only the last four digits of his or her social
 24 security number or an employee identification number other than a social
 25 security number;
- 26 (8) The name and address of the legal entity that is the employer; and
- 27 (9) All applicable hourly rates in effect during the pay period and the
 28 corresponding number of hours worked at each hourly rate by the

1 employee.

2 58. Due to Defendants' failure to pay the Class Members properly as described above, the
3 wage statements issued do not indicate the correct amount of gross wages earned, total hours worked,
4 or the net wages earned, or the applicable hourly rates in effect during the pay period and the
5 corresponding number of hours worked at each hourly rate. Thus, Defendants have violated Labor
6 Code section 226, subdivisions (a)(1), (2), (5), and (9).

7 59. In addition to Labor Code section 226, subdivision (a), Defendants also knowingly and
8 intentionally failed to provide the Class Members with accurate itemized wage statements in violation
9 of Labor Code section 226, subdivision (e). Defendants knew that they were not providing the Class
10 Members with wage statements required by California law but nevertheless failed to correct their
11 unlawful practices and policies. (See *Garnett v. ADT LLC* (E.D. Cal. 2015) 139 F.Supp.3d 1121, 1134
12 [finding the defendant knowingly and intentionally violated Labor Code section 226 because the
13 "[d]efendant knew that it was not providing total hours worked to plaintiff or other employees paid on
14 commission" even though it believed that employees paid solely on commission or commission and
15 salary "are exempt and therefore we do not record hours on a wage statement."].)

16 I. RECORDKEEPING VIOLATIONS

17 60. Labor Code section 226, subdivision (a), requires employers to keep an accurate record
18 of, among other things, all hours worked by employees. Labor Code section 226.3 provides, in
19 pertinent part, as follows:

20 "Any employer who violates subdivision (a) of Section 226 shall be subject to a
21 civil penalty in the amount of two hundred fifty dollars (\$250) per employee per
22 violation in an initial citation and one thousand dollars (\$1,000) per employee
23 for each violation in a subsequent citation, for which the employer fails to
24 provide the employee a wage deduction statement or fails to keep the records
25 required in subdivision (a) of Section 226. The civil penalties provided for in
26 this section are in addition to any other penalty provided by law." (Lab. Code,
27 § 226.3, emphasis added.)

28 ///

61. Likewise, Labor Code section 1174, subdivision (d), requires every employer, including Defendants, to:

“Keep, at a central location in the state or at the plants or establishments at which employees are employed, payroll records showing the hours worked daily by and the wages paid to, and the number of piece-rate units earned by and any applicable piece rate paid to, employees employed at the respective plants or establishments. These records shall be kept in accordance with rules established for this purpose by the commission, but in any case, shall be kept on file for not less than three years. An employer shall not prohibit an employee from maintaining a personal record of hours worked, or, if paid on a piece-rate basis, piece-rate units earned.” (Lab. Code, § 1174, subd. (d), emphasis added.)

62. As explained in detail above, Defendants failed to provide the Class Members with accurate itemized wage statements. Defendants did so, in part, because they failed to accurately track hours worked by the Class Members. Defendants have thus failed to keep accurate records of the “total hours worked by the employee[s]” in violation of Labor Code section 226, subdivision (a), and are therefore subject to the penalties provided by Labor Code section 226.3. These penalties are “in addition to any other penalty provided by law.” (Lab. Code, § 226.3.)

63. The failure to accurately track hours worked also resulted in a failure of Defendants to keep a record of all “payroll records showing the hours worked daily by” Defendants’ employees, including Plaintiff and the other Class Members, in violation of Labor Code section 1174, subdivision (d).

V. CLASS ACTION ALLEGATIONS

64. As mentioned above, Plaintiff brings this action on behalf of himself and the Class Members pursuant to section 382 of the Code of Civil Procedure.

65. **Numerosity/Ascertainability:** The Class Members are so numerous that joinder of all members would be unfeasible and not practicable. The membership of the class is unknown to Plaintiff at this time; however, it is estimated that the number of Class Members is greater than 100 individuals. The identity of such membership is readily ascertainable via inspection of Defendants’ employment

1 records.

2 66. **Common Questions of Law and Fact Predominate/Well Defined Community of**
 3 **Interest:** There are common questions of law and fact as to Plaintiff and all other similarly situated
 4 non-exempt employees, which predominate over questions affecting only individual members
 5 including, without limitation to:

6 A. Whether Defendants' pay policies/practices resulted in a failure to pay the Class
 7 Members for all hours worked, including all minimum wages;

8 B. Whether Defendants' pay policies/practices resulted in a failure to pay the Class
 9 Members for all required overtime wages at the Class Members' regular rate of pay;

10 C. Whether Defendants' rest period policies and practices afforded legally
 11 compliant rest periods or compensation in lieu thereof;

12 D. Whether Defendants' meal period policies and practices afforded legally
 13 compliant meal periods or compensation in lieu thereof;

14 E. Whether Defendants maintained accurate employment records;

15 F. Whether Defendants timely paid all wages during employment;

16 G. Whether Defendants timely paid all wages earned and unpaid at separation;

17 H. Whether Defendants indemnified their employees for all necessary business
 18 expenditures;

19 I. Whether Defendants furnished legally-compliant wage statements to the Class
 20 Members pursuant to Labor Code section 226; and

21 J. Whether Defendants' violations of the Labor Code and the Applicable Wage
 22 Order amounted to a violation of California's UCL.

23 67. **Predominance of Common Questions:** Common questions of law and fact
 24 predominate over questions that affect only individual Class Members. The common questions of law
 25 set forth above are numerous and substantial and stem from Defendants' uniform policies and practices
 26 applicable to each individual class member, such as Defendants' uniform policy and practice of failing
 27 to pay for all hours worked, Defendants' uniform policies and practices which failed to provide
 28 compliant rest periods, Defendants' uniform policies and practices which failed to provide compliant

1 meal periods, Defendants' failure to provide accurate itemized wage statements, and others. As such,
2 the common questions predominate over individual questions concerning each individual class
3 member's showing as to his or her eligibility for recovery or as to the amount of his or her damages.

4 68. **Typicality:** The claims of Plaintiff are typical of the claims of the Class Members
5 because Plaintiff was employed by Defendants as a non-exempt employee in California during the
6 statute(s) of limitation applicable to each cause of action pleaded in this complaint. As alleged herein,
7 Plaintiff, like the other Class Members, was deprived of minimum, regular, and overtime wages
8 because of Defendants' unlawful timekeeping policies and practices, was deprived of rest periods and
9 premium wages in lieu thereof, was deprived of meal periods and premium wages in lieu thereof, was
10 subject to Defendants' uniform rest period policies and practices, was subject to Defendants' uniform
11 meal period policies and practices, was not provided accurate itemized wage statements, was not paid
12 all wages in full and on time, , and was subject to other similar policies and practices to which the Class
13 Members were subject.

14 69. **Adequacy of Representation:** Plaintiff is fully prepared to take all necessary steps to
15 represent fairly and adequately the interests of the Class Members. Moreover, Plaintiff's attorneys are
16 ready, willing, and able to fully and adequately represent the Class Members and Plaintiff. Plaintiff's
17 attorneys have prosecuted numerous wage-and-hour class actions in state and federal court in the past
18 and are committed to vigorously prosecuting this action on behalf of the Class Members.

19 70. **Superiority:** The California Labor Code is broadly remedial in nature and serves an
20 important public interest in establishing minimum working conditions and standards in California.
21 These laws and labor standards protect the average working employee from exploitation by employers
22 who have the responsibility to follow the laws and who may seek to take advantage of superior
23 economic and bargaining power in setting onerous terms and conditions of employment. The nature
24 of this action and the format of laws available to Plaintiff and the Class Members make the class action
25 format a particularly efficient and appropriate procedure to redress the violations alleged herein. If
26 each employee were required to file an individual lawsuit, Defendants would necessarily gain an
27 unconscionable advantage since they would be able to exploit and overwhelm the limited resources of
28 each individual plaintiff with their vastly superior financial and legal resources.

71. Moreover, requiring each Class Member to pursue an individual remedy would also discourage the assertion of lawful claims by employees who would be disinclined to file an action against their former or current employer for real and justifiable fear of retaliation and permanent damages to their careers at subsequent employment. Further, the prosecution of separate actions by the individual Class Members, even if possible, would create a substantial risk of inconsistent or varying verdicts or adjudications with respect to the individual Class Members against Defendants herein, and which would establish potentially incompatible standards of conduct for Defendants or legal determinations with respect to individual Class Members which would, as a practical matter, be dispositive of the interest of the other Class Members not parties to adjudications or which would substantially impair or impede the ability of the Class Members to protect their interests.

72. Further, the claims of the individual Class Members are not sufficiently large to warrant vigorous individual prosecution considering the concomitant costs and expenses attending thereto. As such, the Class Members identified above are maintainable as a class under section 382 of the Code of Civil Procedure.

VI. CAUSES OF ACTION

First Cause of Action

Failure to Pay All Minimum Wages

(Against All Defendants)

73. Plaintiff realleges and incorporates by reference all previous paragraphs.

74. Section 4 of the Applicable Wage Order and Labor Code section 1197 establish the right of employees to be paid minimum wages for all hours worked, in amounts set by state law. (Lab. Code, § 1197; Cal. Code of Regs., tit. 8, § 11040.) Labor Code sections 1194, subdivision (a), and 1194.2, subdivision (a), provide that an employee who has not been paid the legal minimum wage as required by Labor Code section 1197 may recover the unpaid balance, together with attorneys' fees and costs of suit, as well as liquidated damages in an amount equal to the unpaid wages and interest accrued thereon.

75. Here, Defendants failed to fully conform their pay practices to the requirements of the law during the relevant statutory periods. Plaintiff and the other Class Members were not compensated

1 for all hours worked including, but not limited to, all hours they were subject to the control of
 2 Defendants and/or suffered or permitted to work under the Labor Code and the Applicable Wage Order.

3 76. Labor Code section 1198 makes unlawful the employment of an employee under
 4 conditions that the IWC Wage Orders prohibit. Labor Code sections 1194, subdivision (a), and 1194.2,
 5 subdivision (a), provide that an employer who has failed to pay its employees the legal minimum wage
 6 is liable to pay those employees the unpaid balance of the unpaid wages as well as liquidated damages
 7 in an amount equal to the wages due and interest thereon.

8 77. As a direct and proximate result of Defendants' unlawful conduct as alleged herein,
 9 Plaintiff and the other Class Members have sustained economic damages, including but not limited to
 10 unpaid wages and lost interest, in an amount to be established at trial, and they are entitled to recover
 11 economic and statutory damages and penalties and other appropriate relief because of Defendants'
 12 violations of the Labor Code and Applicable Wage Order.

13 78. Defendants' practices and policies regarding illegal employee compensation are
 14 unlawful and create an entitlement to recovery by Plaintiff and the other Class Members in a civil
 15 action for the unpaid amount of minimum wages, liquidated damages, including interest thereon,
 16 statutory penalties, attorney's fees, and costs of suit according to Labor Code sections 204, 218.5,
 17 1194, 1194.2, 1197, and 1198, and Code of Civil Procedure section 1021.5.

18 **Second Cause of Action**

19 *Failure to Pay All Overtime Wages*

20 *(Against All Defendants)*

21 79. Plaintiff realleges and incorporates by reference all previous paragraphs.

22 80. This cause of action is brought pursuant to Labor Code sections 204, 510, 1194, and
 23 1198, which provide those non-exempt employees are entitled to overtime wages for all overtime hours
 24 worked and provide a private right of action for the failure to pay all overtime compensation for
 25 overtime work performed. At all times relevant herein, Defendants were required to properly pay
 26 Plaintiff and the other Class Members for all overtime wages earned pursuant to Labor Code section
 27 1194 and the Applicable Wage Order. Defendants caused Plaintiff and the other Class Members to
 28 work overtime hours but did not compensate them at one and one-half times their regular rate of pay

1 for such hours in accordance with California law. Likewise, Defendants caused Plaintiff and the other
 2 Class Members to work double-time hours but did not compensate them at twice their regular rate of
 3 pay for such hours in accordance with California law.

4 81. Defendants failed to fully conform their pay practices to the requirements of California
 5 law. This unlawful conduct includes but is not limited to Defendants' uniform and unlawful pay
 6 policies and practices of failing to accurately record all the time that non-exempt employees were under
 7 the supervision and control of Defendants. The foregoing policies and practices are unlawful and allow
 8 Plaintiff and the other Class Members to recover in a civil action the unpaid amount of overtime
 9 premiums owing, including interest thereon, statutory penalties, attorney's fees, and costs of suit
 10 according to Labor Code section 204, 510, 1194, and 1198, the Applicable Wage Order, and Code of
 11 Civil Procedure section 1021.5.

12 **Third Cause of Action**

13 *Failure to Provide Rest Periods and Pay Missed Rest Period Premiums*

14 *(Against All Defendants)*

15 82. Plaintiff realleges and incorporates by reference all previous paragraphs.

16 83. Section 12 of the Applicable Wage Order, and Labor Code section 226.7 establish the
 17 right of employees to be provided with a rest period of at least ten minutes for each four-hour period
 18 worked, or major fraction thereof. (See Cal. Code of Regs., tit. 8, § 11040.)

19 84. Due to Defendants' unlawful rest period policies and practices described in detail above,
 20 Defendants did not authorize and permit Plaintiff and the other Class Members to take all rest periods
 21 to which they were legally entitled. Despite Defendants' violations, Defendants have not paid an
 22 additional hour of pay to Plaintiff and the other Class Members at their respective regular rates of pay
 23 for each violation, in accordance with California Labor Code section 226.7.

24 85. The foregoing violations create an entitlement to recovery by Plaintiff and the other
 25 Class Members in a civil action for the unpaid amount of rest period premiums owing, including interest
 26 thereon, statutory penalties, and costs of suit pursuant to the Applicable Wage Order, and California
 27 Labor Code section 226.7.

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Fourth Cause of Action

Failure to Provide Meal Periods and Pay Missed Meal Period Premiums

(Against All Defendants)

86. Plaintiff realleges and incorporates by reference all previous paragraphs.

87. Plaintiff is informed and believes and thereon alleges, that Defendants failed in their affirmative obligation to provide their hourly non-exempt employees, including Plaintiff and the other Class Members, with all required meal periods in accordance with the mandates of the Labor Code and the Applicable Wage Order, for the reasons set forth herein above. Despite Defendants' violations, Defendants have not paid an additional hour of pay to Plaintiff and the other Class Members at their respective regular rates of pay for each violation, in accordance with California Labor Code section 226.7.

88. As a result, Defendants are responsible for paying premium compensation for meal period violations, including interest thereon, statutory penalties, and costs of suit pursuant to the Applicable Wage Order and Labor Code sections 226.7 and 512, and Civil Code sections 3287, subdivision (b), and 3289. (See Cal. Code of Regs., tit. 8, § 11040.)

Fifth Cause of Action

Failure to Maintain Accurate Employment Records

(Against All Defendants)

89. Plaintiff realleges and incorporates by reference all previous paragraphs.

90. Pursuant to California Labor Code section 1174, subdivision (d), an employer shall keep at a central location in the state or at the plants or establishments at which employees are employed, payroll records showing the hours worked daily by and wages paid to employees employed at the respective plants or establishments. These records must be kept in accordance with rules established for this purpose by the commission, but in any case, shall be kept on file for not less than two years.

91. Labor Code section 1174.5 imposes a civil penalty of \$500 for an employer's failure to maintain accurate and complete records.

92. Defendant has intentionally and willfully failed to keep accurate and complete records showing the hours worked daily and wages paid to Plaintiff and the other Class Members. Thus,

1 Plaintiff and the other Class Members have been denied their legal right and protected interest in having
 2 available at a central location at the plant or establishment where they are employed, accurate and
 3 complete payroll records showing the hours worked daily by, and the wages paid to, employees at those
 4 respective locations pursuant to Labor Code 1174.

5 **Sixth Cause of Action**

6 *Failure to Pay Wages Timely during Employment*

7 *(Against All Defendants)*

8 93. Plaintiff realleges and incorporates by reference all previous paragraphs.

9 94. Labor Code section 200 provides that “wages” include all amounts for labor performed
 10 by employees of every description, whether the amount is fixed or ascertained by the standard of time,
 11 task, pieces, commission basis, or other method of calculation. Labor Code section 204 states that all
 12 wages earned by any person in any employment are payable twice during the calendar month and must
 13 be paid not more than seven days following the close of the period when the wages were earned. Labor
 14 Code section 210, subdivision (a), makes employers who violate Labor Code section 204 subject to a
 15 penalty of \$100 for any initial failure to timely pay each employee’s full wages and \$200 for each
 16 subsequent violation, plus 25% of the amount unlawfully withheld.

17 95. Labor Code section 216 establishes that it is a misdemeanor for any person, with regards
 18 to wages due to “falsely deny the amount or validity thereof, or that the same is due, with intent to
 19 secure himself, his employer or other person, any discount upon such indebtedness, or with intent to
 20 annoy, harass, oppress, hinder, delay, or defraud, the person to whom such indebtedness is due.”

21 96. Defendants as a matter of established company policy and procedure in the State of
 22 California, scheduled, required, suffered, and/or permitted Plaintiff and the other Class Members, to
 23 work without full compensation, to work without legally-compliant off-duty meal periods, to work
 24 without legally-compliant off-duty rest periods, and thereby failed to fully pay Plaintiff and the other
 25 Class Members within seven days of the close of payroll, as required by law.

26 97. Defendants, as a matter of established company policy and procedure in the State of
 27 California, falsely deny they owe Plaintiff and the other Class Members these wages, with the intent of
 28 securing for itself a discount upon its indebtedness and/or to annoy, harass, oppress, hinder, delay,

1 and/or defraud Plaintiff and the other Class Members.

2 98. Defendants' pattern, practice, and uniform administration of its corporate policy of
3 illegally denying employees compensation, as described herein, is unlawful and entitles Plaintiff and
4 the other Class Members to recover, pursuant to Labor Code section 218, the unpaid balance of the
5 compensation owed to them in a civil action and any applicable penalties, attorney fees, and interest
6 owed to them pursuant to Labor Code sections 210 and 218.5.

7 **Seventh Cause of Action**

8 *Failure to Pay All Wages Earned and Unpaid at Separation*

9 *(Against All Defendants)*

10 99. Plaintiff realleges and incorporates by reference all previous paragraphs.

11 100. The actionable period for this cause of action is three years prior to the filing of this
12 complaint through the present, and ongoing until the violations are corrected, or the class is certified.
13 (*Pineda v. Bank of America, N.A.* (2010) 50 Cal.4th 1389, 1395; *Murphy v. Kenneth Cole Productions,*
14 *Inc.* (2007) 40 Cal.4th 1094, 1109; Code Civ. Proc., § 338, subd. (a).) Labor Code sections 201 and
15 202 of the California Labor Code require Defendants to pay all compensation due and owing to its
16 former employees (including the formerly-employed Class Members) during the actionable period for
17 this cause of action at or around the time that their employment is or was terminated, or ended.

18 101. Section 203 of the Labor Code provides that if an employer willfully fails to pay
19 compensation promptly upon discharge or resignation, as required by Sections 201 and 202, then the
20 employer is liable for penalties in the form of continued compensation up to thirty workdays.

21 102. Due to Defendants' faulty pay policies, those Class Members whose employment with
22 Defendants has concluded were not compensated for each and every hour worked at the appropriate
23 rate. Defendants have willfully failed to pay those formerly-employed Class Members whose sums
24 were certain at the time of termination within seventy-two hours of their resignation and have failed to
25 pay those sums for thirty days thereafter as required by Labor Code sections 201 through 203.

26 103. As a result, Defendants are liable to the formerly-employed Class Members for waiting
27 time penalties amounting to thirty days wages for the formerly-employed Class Members pursuant to
28 Labor Code section 203. (See, e.g., DLSE Manual, § 4.3.4 [failure to pay any sort of wages due upon

1 termination entitles an employee to recover waiting time penalties].)

2 **Eighth Cause of Action**

3 *Failure to Indemnify All Necessary Business Expenditures*

4 *(Against All Defendants)*

5 104. Plaintiff realleges and incorporates by reference all previous paragraphs.

6 105. California Labor Code Section 2802 states that employers must “indemnify” an
7 employee for “all necessary expenditures or losses incurred by the employee in direct consequence of
8 the discharge of his or her duties, or of his or her obedience to the directions of the employer.”
9 Likewise, Labor Code section 2804 states that “any contract or agreement, express or implied, made
10 by any employee to waive the benefits of this article or any part thereof, is null and void, and this article
11 shall not deprive any employee or his personal representative of any right or remedy to which he is
12 entitled under the laws of this State.”

13 106. Here, Plaintiff and the other Class Members paid out of pocket for necessary business
14 expenditures incurred as a direct consequence and requirement of performing their job duties, including
15 the costs associated with their personal cell phone and home office expenses they required to perform
16 their work. Despite knowing that Plaintiff and the other Class Members incurred these necessary
17 business expenses and requiring Plaintiff and the other Class Members to use such items, Defendants
18 did not reimburse them.

19 107. Thus, Plaintiff and the other Class Members are entitled to recover the cost of such
20 necessary business expenses, plus interest from the date each incurred such business expenses, plus
21 fees and costs. (Lab. Code, § 2802, subds. (b), (c).)

22 **Ninth Cause of Action**

23 *Failure to Furnish Accurate Itemized Wage Statements*

24 *(Against All Defendants)*

25 108. Plaintiff realleges and incorporates by reference all previous paragraphs.

26 109. Labor Code section 226, subdivision (a), obligates employers, semi-monthly or at the
27 time of each payment to furnish an itemized wage statement in writing showing:

28 (1) The gross wages earned;

- 1 (2) The total hours worked by the employee;
- 2 (3) The number of piece-rate units earned and any applicable piece rate if
- 3 the employee is paid on a piece rate basis;
- 4 (4) All deductions, provided that all deductions made on written orders of
- 5 the employee may be aggregated and shown as one item;
- 6 (5) The net wages earned;
- 7 (6) The inclusive dates of the period for which the employee is paid;
- 8 (7) The name of the employee and only the last four digits of his or her social
- 9 security number or an employee identification number other than a social
- 10 security number;
- 11 (8) The name and address of the legal entity that is the employer; and
- 12 (9) All applicable hourly rates in effect during the pay period and the
- 13 corresponding number of hours worked at each hourly rate by the
- 14 employee.

15 110. As set forth above, Defendants issued and continues to issue wage statements to its non-
 16 exempt employees including Plaintiff and the other Class Members that are inadequate under Labor
 17 Code section 226, subdivision (a). By failing to pay Plaintiff and the other Class Members properly as
 18 described above, Defendants failed to include required information on their wage statements, including,
 19 but not limited to, the gross wages earned, the net wages earned in violation of Labor Code section
 20 226, subdivision (a).

21 111. Defendants' failure to comply with Labor Code section 226, subdivision (a), of the
 22 Labor Code was knowing and intentional. (Lab. Code, § 226, subd. (e)).

23 112. As a result of Defendants' issuance of inaccurate itemized wage statements to Plaintiff
 24 and the other Class Members in violation of Labor Code section 226, subdivision (a), Plaintiff and the
 25 other Class Members are each entitled to recover an initial penalty of \$50, and subsequent penalties of
 26 \$100, up to an amount not exceeding an aggregate penalty of \$4,000 per Plaintiff and per each Class
 27 Member from Defendants pursuant to Labor Code section 226, subdivision (e), along with costs and
 28 reasonable attorneys' fees.

Tenth Cause of Action

Violations of California's Unfair Competition Law

(Against All Defendants)

113. Plaintiff realleges and incorporates by reference all previous paragraphs.

114. Defendants have engaged and continue to engage in unfair and/or unlawful business practices in California in violation of California Business and Professions Code section 17200 through 17210, by committing the unlawful acts described above. Defendants' utilization of these unfair and unlawful business practices deprived and continue to deprive Plaintiff and the other Class Members of compensation to which they are legally entitled. These practices constitute unfair and unlawful competition and provide an unfair advantage over Defendants' competitors who have been and/or are currently employing workers and attempting to do so in honest compliance with applicable wage and hour laws.

115. Because Plaintiff is a victim of Defendants' unfair and unlawful conduct alleged herein, Plaintiff for himself and on behalf of the Class Members, seeks full restitution of monies, as necessary and according to proof, to restore any and all monies withheld, acquired and/or converted by Defendants pursuant to Business and Professions Code sections 17203 and 17208.

116. The acts complained of herein occurred within the four years prior to the initiation of this action and are continuing into the present and ongoing.

117. Plaintiff was compelled to retain the services of counsel to file this Court action to protect his interests and those of the Class Members, to obtain restitution and injunctive relief on behalf of Defendants' current non-exempt employees and to enforce important rights affecting the public interest. Plaintiff has thereby incurred the financial burden of attorneys' fees and costs, which Plaintiff is entitled to recover under Code of Civil Procedure section 1021.5.

VII. DEMAND FOR JURY TRIAL

118. Plaintiff hereby demands trial by jury of Plaintiff's and the Class Members' claims against Defendants.

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1 **VIII. PRAYER FOR RELIEF**

2 Plaintiff prays for judgment for himself and for all others on whose behalf this suit is brought
3 against Defendants, as follows:

- 4 1. For an order certifying the proposed class;
- 5 2. For an order appointing Plaintiff as representative of the class;
- 6 3. For an order appointing Plaintiff's counsel as counsel for the class;
- 7 4. For the failure to pay all minimum wages, compensatory, consequential, general, and
8 special damages according to proof pursuant to Labor Code sections 1194, 1194.2,
9 1197, and others as may be applicable;
- 10 5. For the failure to pay all overtime wages, compensatory, consequential, general, and
11 special damages according to proof pursuant to Labor Code sections 204, 510, 1194,
12 1198, and others as may be applicable;
- 13 6. For the failure to provide rest periods and pay missed rest period premiums,
14 compensatory, consequential, general, and special damages according to proof pursuant
15 to Labor Code section 226.7;
- 16 7. For the failure to provide meal periods and pay missed meal period premiums,
17 compensatory, consequential, general, and special damages according to proof pursuant
18 to Labor Code sections 226.7 and 512;
- 19 8. For the failure to maintain accurate employment records, penalties pursuant to Labor
20 Code sections 226.3, 1174.5, and others that may be applicable;
- 21 9. For the failure to pay wages timely during employment, the unpaid balance of the
22 compensation owed to Plaintiff and the other Class Members and any applicable
23 penalties owed to them pursuant to Labor Code section 210;
- 24 10. For the failure to pay all wages earned and unpaid at separation, statutory waiting time
25 penalties pursuant to Labor Code sections 201 through 203, for the Class Members who
26 quit or were fired in an amount equal to their daily wage multiplied by thirty days, as
27 may be proven;

28 ///

- 1 **11.** For the failure to indemnify all necessary business expenditures, all unreimbursed
- 2 business expenses, and interest thereon, that are owed, pursuant to Labor Code section
- 3 2802, and attorney fees, pursuant to Labor Code section 2802, subdivision (c);
- 4 **12.** For the violations of California's Unfair Competition Law, restitution to Plaintiff and
- 5 the other Class Members of all money and/or property unlawfully acquired by
- 6 Defendants by means of any acts or practices declared by this Court to be in violation
- 7 of Business and Professions Code sections 17200 through 17210;
- 8 **13.** Prejudgment interest on all due and unpaid wages pursuant to Labor Code section 218.6
- 9 and Civil Code sections 3287 and 3289;
- 10 **14.** On all causes of action for which attorneys' fees may be available, for attorneys' fees
- 11 and costs as provided by Labor Code sections 218.5, 226, Code of Civil Procedure
- 12 section 1021.5, and others as may be applicable;
- 13 **15.** For an order enjoining Defendants, and each of them, and their agents, servants, and
- 14 employees, and all persons acting under, in concert with, or for them, from acting in
- 15 derogation of any rights or duties adumbrated in this complaint; and
- 16 **16.** For such other and further relief, this Court may deem just and proper.

17 Dated: May 4, 2022

MELMED LAW GROUP P.C.



JONATHAN MELMED

Attorney for Plaintiff and the Putative Class